

Buyers purchasing feeder calves at special feeder calf sales may find it advantageous to contract with their local truckers; however, the market holding the special sale can assist in locating competent and dependable truckers.

The safe and adequate transportation of feeder calves can be the difference between profit and loss in your cattle enterprise.

HOW MANY FEEDER CALVES MAKE A LOAD?

Cattle

Single Deck Trucks

Floor length	Weight of Feeder Calves						
	250 lbs.	300 lbs.	350 lbs.	400 lbs.	450 lbs.	500 lbs.	600 lbs.
8 ft.	14	13	11	9	8	7	7
10 ft.	18	16	14	12	10	9	8
12 ft.	22	19	17	14	13	12	10
15 ft.	27	24	21	17	16	15	13
18 ft.	33	28	25	21	20	19	16
20 ft.	35	32	28	24	22	20	18
24 ft.	44	38	34	28	27	25	22
28 ft.	51	44	39	33	31	29	25
30 ft.	55	47	42	35	34	32	27
32 ft.	58	51	44	38	36	34	29
36 ft.	66	57	50	42	41	38	33
42 ft.	77	63	55	49	48	45	39

**PARTITION OR GATE EACH LOAD—
IT'S A SOUND INVESTMENT!**

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TRANSPORTATION of FEEDER CALVES

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TRANSPORTATION of FEEDER CALVES

Transporting feeder calves to market or to the feedlot is one of the key items in a profitable cattle operation. Losses caused by improper or careless transportation can consume the profits for the year's operation.

You should give the same serious consideration and planning to your transportation as you do to any other phase of your cattle business. An improperly loaded truck can result in crowding, excessive shrink, market price penalties, or even death losses.

Too many or too few feeder calves loaded on a truck present the greatest single transportation hazard. The table on page 3 shows the suggested number of calves and weights for various sizes of trucks.

A properly loaded truck with adequate partitions will result in less trampling, crippling, and loss.

If you do not have a full truck load, gate calves to the front of the truck. Calves should be gated snugly but should not be overcrowded. If you have a full load of feeder calves, place a gate in the center of the load to give support to the calves and prevent crowding. The few minutes required to gate the load is but a fraction of the time you have spent growing the calves, if you are the seller. For the buyer of feeder calves, the few minutes spent in properly loading the truck may save many hours of nursing injured calves.

Trucking arrangements should be planned and contracted early. Feeder calf shippers should contract their transportation when they consign their feeder calves to a sale. Special feeder calf sales make a heavy demand on local truckers. Use the table on page 3 to determine the size of truck or trucks necessary to move your cattle. Feeder calf producers should arrange for the truck to be at the farm when the calves are ready to be loaded.

Cattle feeders will also find it to their advantage to make trucking arrangements before buying cattle. Buyers traveling outside their community to buy calves in special sales may find it wise to contact

their local trucker before leaving home to learn when he is available, the cost of handling, and the size of his truck. The table can serve as a guide to buyers, both as to numbers of feeders to buy and size of truck required.

Handle calves quietly. Feeder calf producers should separate calves from the herd and load them as quietly as possible and with a minimum amount of handling. Adequate pens, gates, and loading chutes are a must for the feeder calf producer. Proper and adequate facilities will greatly reduce the effort required, and as a result, the amount of stress on the calves will be reduced. The amount of shrink and stress increases with the amount of handling.

Never use electric prods to move feeder calves!

Feeder calves should be moved in vehicles adequate for hauling calves. The vehicle should be clean and disinfected to prevent disease. The floor of the vehicle should be conditioned to prevent the calves from slipping when it becomes wet. Wooden cleats can be securely fastened to a smooth floor; then sand or similar material should be applied to cover the floor. Straw or hay may be used to cover the sand and absorb moisture.

In bad weather, covering the truck will prevent the calves from becoming chilled while in transit.

After the calves are loaded, the trucker should not move the truck for a few minutes; this lets the calves quiet down and become accustomed to their situation. The loaded truck should be driven smoothly and without fast starts and stops. Frequent inspections should be made to check the condition of the calves.

Calves should be unloaded with the same quietness with which they were loaded. Wild, frightened calves lose weight quickly and adjust to new feedlots slowly.

If you are selling calves in a special sale, you will want to plan your transportation early and agree on the following with your trucker:

Cost

Time calves are to be loaded at the farm

Deadline for delivery at the market

Number of head and size of cattle to be shipped

Exact location of farm and loading point

Loading facilities available

Insurance of loss in transit